

MODULE 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE NATIONAL VETERINARY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM



NATIONAL VETERINARY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

United States Department of Agriculture • Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service • Veterinary Services

Approved as one unit of supplemental training for participants in USDA's National Veterinary Accreditation Program



Introduction to the National Veterinary Accreditation Program

This informational module has been approved expressly to serve as one unit of supplemental training for participants in USDA's National Veterinary Accreditation Program. The module is intended to familiarize accredited veterinarians with animal health regulatory concepts and activities. Information in the module does not supersede the regulations. For the most up-to-date regulations and standards, please refer to the Code of Federal Regulations or contact your local VS Area Office.

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This document was made possible, in part, by a Cooperative Agreement from the USDA-APHIS for the National Veterinary Accreditation Program. It was produced by the Center for Food Security and Public Health, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, College of Veterinary Medicine.

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Introduction to the National Veterinary Accreditation Program

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Introduction to the National Veterinary Accreditation Program

Introduction

Welcome to the National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP) Introductory module.

This module will

- Introduce the National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP),
- Review the history and importance of the NVAP and its contributions to protecting and ensuring animal health,
- Provide information on the Category I and II accreditation levels and program certification opportunities.
- Highlight the duties and responsibilities of an accredited veterinarian under the new NVAP system, and

Completion of this module is estimated to take 30 minutes, but will vary depending on your familiarity with the information presented.

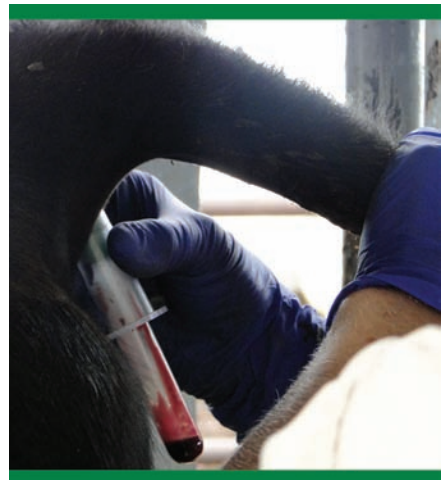
Accreditation is Federal Government approval of private veterinarians to perform certain official regulatory functions on its behalf. NVAP is a voluntary program that certifies private veterinary practitioners to work cooperatively with Federal veterinarians and State Animal Health Officials to protect and ensure animal health.

The NVAP is administered by the Veterinary Services (VS) branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) in collaboration with individual states. Veterinarians are accredited by the Federal Government in cooperation with individual State Governments. The accreditation program is managed at the national level; however, the authority to perform accreditation duties is issued on a State-by-State basis. Veterinarians must be authorized in each state that they wish to perform regulatory duties.

USDA-APHIS is dependent on the partnership with accredited veterinarians for carrying out many of the programs and services designed to protect public health and well-being by preventing, controlling, and eradicating disease in animals. The mission of the NVAP is "to provide private veterinary practitioners with the information they need to ensure the health of the Nations' livestock and animal population and to protect the public health and well-being."

There are approximately 71,000+ active accredited veterinarians in the national database. Accredited veterinarians are the backbone of the US' regulatory programs for livestock diseases and have extraordinary responsibilities. They perform health certifications to ensure that animals transported between States and exported to other countries do not introduce disease. They also help USDA conduct surveillance and monitoring for diseases of concern. They are vital to the recognition and prompt reporting of foreign animal disease (FAD) incursions.

The accreditation program has served the animal industry well since 1921 and is an important component of the overall strategy to protect and ensure the health of the Nation's animal populations.



Knowledge Review #1

As a veterinarian, once you are accredited to perform regulatory duties on behalf of the Federal Government in one State, you are able to perform them in every State. True or False?

- True
- False

Answers are found in the appendix.

History

1907

Private practitioners first performed regulatory work for the Federal Government in 1907, when a large number of horses were exported to Canada. Because there were not enough Federal veterinarians, the Canadian government agreed to accept health inspections and certifications performed by private practitioners qualified by the Bureau of Animal Industry (now APHIS).

1917

The services of practicing veterinarians were used again in 1917, when the Tuberculosis Eradication program was established.

1921

The veterinary accreditation program officially began in 1921, when USDA's Bureau of Animal Industry administered the first accreditation examination to certify practitioners as representatives of the Federal Government. The accreditation program was established so private practitioners could assist Federal veterinarians in controlling animal diseases. Today, accredited veterinarians and Federal and State Animal Health Officials work cooperatively in the NVAP.

1992

In 1992, APHIS established accreditation to be managed nationally, although the authority to perform accreditation work is implemented on a State-by-State basis. The national system approach standardized the accreditation procedures and requirements allowing for more uniform administration of the program. More than 80 percent of all U.S. veterinarians are accredited.

The National Veterinary Accreditation Program

USDA-APHIS-VS has a long history of cooperating with the veterinary community in performing regulatory work in the United States. APHIS determined it needed to enhance the NVAP to provide ongoing supplemental training relevant to the responsibilities of being an accredited veterinarian. Accordingly, the NVAP will ensure that accredited veterinarians have detailed and current information throughout their careers to meet the challenges of disease prevention and emergency preparedness.

The changes are designed to:

- Improve quality and accuracy of accreditation program activities,
- Increase international credibility for the U.S. accreditation program,
- Improve the ability to provide timely animal health information to accredited veterinarians,
- Improve the ability to safeguard domestic animal population health,
- Improve quality and marketability of U.S. animals and animal products, and
- Improve accredited veterinarians' knowledge of the zoonotic nature of many domestic and foreign animal diseases.

The rationale for enhancing the accreditation program is based on international and domestic developments, including:

- The increasing need for uniformity and consistency in the administration of the NVAP policy;
- The need to maintain international acceptance of the U.S. veterinary accreditation program (most other countries use government veterinarians to perform the duties conducted by U.S. accredited veterinarians);
- Constantly changing trade requirements and ongoing changes to domestic programs require that the accredited veterinarian stay current through education to be able to perform accreditation duties accurately;

- Increasing number of trade agreements recognized by global organizations (e.g., World Trade Organization); and
- Increasing demand for industry-driven quality assurance programs.

Additional reasons for changing the NVAP include

- Strengthening the emergency response capability for animal agricultural emergencies; and
- Recognizing that accredited veterinarians are the country's front-line surveillance system: they will be among the first to detect a foreign animal disease. Increasing the practicing veterinarians' knowledge of emerging and foreign animal diseases will increase preparedness in the event of a foreign animal disease incursion.

APHIS believes that the NVAP will improve the overall knowledge base of accredited veterinarians—something that is extremely important in today's fast-paced global society.

The overriding goal of the new program is for VS, private practitioners, State Animal Health Officials, and veterinary colleges to work cooperatively toward the goal of protecting and improving the health, quality, and marketability of animals from the United States. Increased collaboration, especially with colleges of veterinary medicine and their students, will be crucial to the success of the program.

How the Accreditation Process has Changed

The NVAP published regulations which became effective February 1, 2010. There are now requirements for you to complete designated amounts of APHIS-approved supplemental training and to renew your accreditation every three years. You have also selected an accreditation category based on your scope of practice, and Category II veterinarians are eligible to receive additional training to become Qualified Accredited Veterinarians (QAVs) in specific areas of expertise such as aquaculture.



Supplemental Training Requirements

The NVAP supplemental training requirements must be met in order to maintain authorization to perform accreditation duties. This training is achieved through completion of **modules** that focus on:

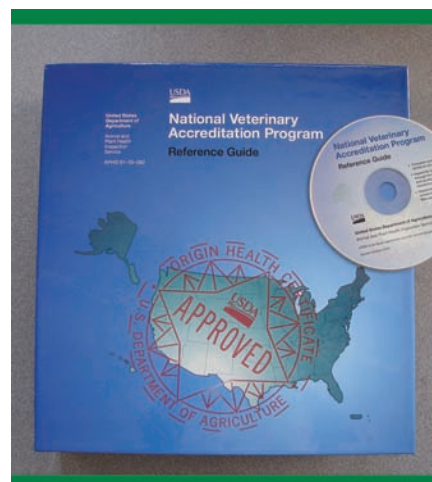
- The latest scientific information on the **transmission, recognition** (clinical signs and diagnosis), and **reporting** of exotic and emerging diseases; and
- **NVAP policy.**

These modules will increase awareness of prevention and preparedness strategies for animal health emergencies in the United States. Training will be offered in a web-based format, on CD-ROM or printed copy upon request, and in meetings like the one presented here. Each web-based module will take no more than one hour to complete. There will be no charge for the web-based training; the CD-ROM or paper copies will have a minimal cost to cover production, shipping and handling.

Accreditation Eligibility Requirements

In order to be eligible for accreditation:

1. The veterinarian must be a graduate with a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine or an equivalent degree (any degree that qualifies the holder to be licensed by a State to practice veterinary medicine) from a college of veterinary medicine.
2. The veterinarian must be licensed or legally able to practice veterinary medicine in the State in which the veterinarian wishes to perform accredited duties.
3. The veterinarian has completed initial accreditation training, using content approved by APHIS (if applying for the first time after July 2011).
4. The veterinarian must have completed a core orientation program approved by the Veterinarian-in-Charge for the State in which the veterinarian wishes to perform accredited duties. Upon completion of



this core orientation, the veterinarian must sign a written statement listing the date and place of orientation, the subjects covered in the orientation, and any written materials provided. The State Animal Health Official often participates in the core orientation.

Initial Accreditation Training

For veterinary students and veterinarians seeking to become accredited for the first time after July 2011, completion of Initial Accreditation Training is required. There are many topics related to diseases, their control and eradication, animal movement and federal animal health laws that accredited veterinarians must be familiar with in order to successfully participate in the NVAP. A series of web-based training lessons covering these topics have been incorporated into the *Emerging and Exotic Diseases of Animals (EEDA)* course. The complete list of required lessons is provided below:

1. **Accredited Veterinarian: Professional and Ethical Responsibilities**

This lesson addresses the importance of accredited veterinarians. Real-life examples of veterinarians performing their duties correctly and incorrectly and the consequences of each are included to demonstrate the enormous professional and ethical responsibilities.

2. **Federal Animal Health Laws**

This lesson provides basic need-to-know information for new veterinarians regarding Federal animal health laws, regulations and rules. It also contains links to more in depth resources about interstate movement requirements for animals and import and export requirements.

3. **Animal Disease Diagnosis, Control and Eradication**

This lesson reviews the history of USDA disease eradication and control programs and provides detailed information on current programs. Since control and eradication rely heavily on proper diagnosis, information about how to handle suspect diseases, taking appropriate samples and properly packaging them is also discussed. Contact information for laboratories and details about the National Animal Health Laboratory Network is included in this lesson.

4. **Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) Awareness**

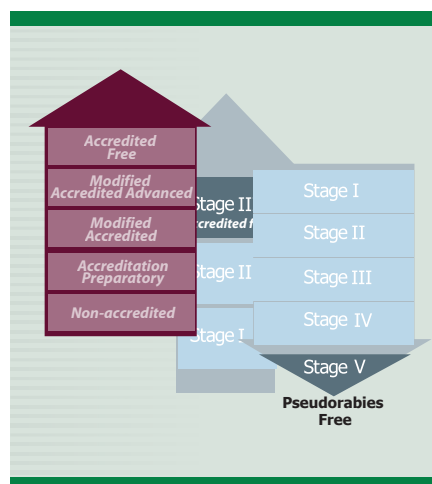
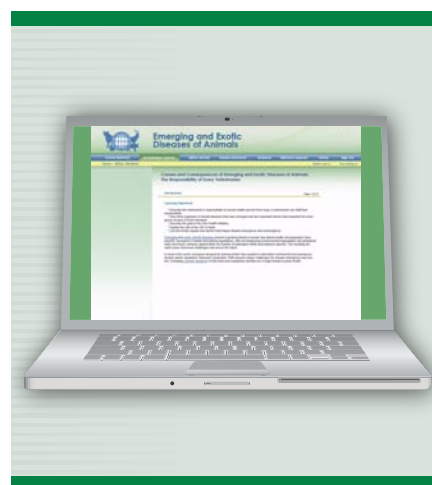
To gain this knowledge, you will need to review:

- Foreign Animal Diseases and the Consequences of their Introduction
- Routes of Transmission and Introduction of FAD

5. **Animal Health Emergency Management**

To learn how State and Federal agencies respond to animal health emergencies and how a veterinarian can participate in this effort, you will need to review the following lessons:

- Response to FAD and the Agencies Involved
- A Veterinarian's Role in an Animal Health Emergency
- Incursions of FAD – 7 required



For each of the above lessons there is a section test and participants must correctly answer 80% or more of the questions to receive completion credit. Once participants have successfully completed each lesson and section test, an electronic certificate will be available to print or save. This certificate serves as the “admission pass” to the next phase of the accreditation process, core orientation.

Core Orientation

The Veterinary Accreditation **Core Orientation Program** includes the following topics:

- Federal animal health laws, regulations, and rules;
- Interstate movement requirements for animals;
- Import and export requirements for animals;

- USDA animal disease eradication and control programs;
- Laboratory support in confirming disease diagnoses;
- Ethical/professional responsibilities of an accredited veterinarian;
- Foreign animal disease awareness; and
- Animal health emergency management.

Animal health procedures, issues, and information resources relevant to the State in which the veterinarian wishes to perform accredited duties is often covered in State-specific orientation. This State-specific orientation, if necessary, is performed in the desired State of practice after licensure.

Veterinarians apply for accreditation by completing VS Form 1-36A, “Application for Veterinary Accreditation,” and certify that they are able to perform specific tasks.

This document can be accessed at the following Web page: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/vet_accreditation/downloads/vs1-36a.pdf

This information is submitted to the APHIS Area Veterinarian-in-Charge (AVIC) in the State where the applicant wishes to perform accredited duties.

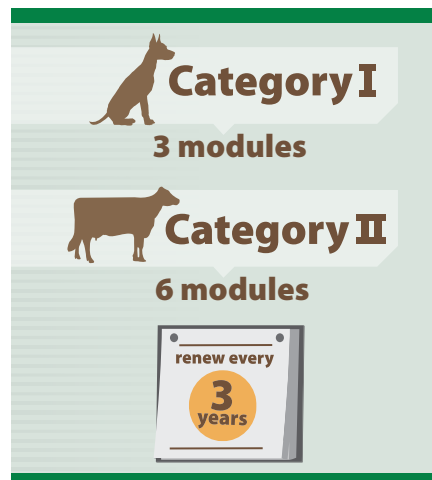
The forms are then reviewed by the State Animal Health Official and endorsed (unless the State Animal Health Official sent a written statement to APHIS explaining why the application was not endorsed).

Accreditation Categories and Renewal

To meet the changing scope of veterinary practice, the NVAP has two species-based categories of accreditation. Veterinarians select an accreditation Category (I or II) when completing VS Form 1-36A. Veterinarians in both categories will complete supplemental training modules during the 3-year renewal period. When currently accredited veterinarians voluntarily sign up for the NVAP, after completing the steps previously described, you will receive a renewal letter from the USDA that contains your National Accreditation Number (NAN) and your renewal date.

Initial renewals of accreditation for veterinarians already accredited as of February 1, 2010 will be staggered between 2013, 2014, and 2015. Subsequent renewals will take place three years after the first series of renewals. For example, accredited veterinarians whose initial renewal date is August 31, 2014, will be due for renewal three years after their initial renewal, in 2017. The renewal date is the date that supplemental training must be complete. Category I veterinarians need to complete **THREE** training modules during their 3-year renewal period to maintain their accreditation status. Category II veterinarians are required to complete **SIX** training modules during their 3-year renewal period.

Veterinarians selecting **Category I** are able to issue official documents for all animals **except**: food and fiber species, horses, birds, farm-raised aquatic animals, all other livestock species, and zoo animals that can transmit exotic animal diseases to livestock. Even though pot-bellied pigs and certain birds may be kept as pets, they may still harbor diseases which pose significant threats to the nation’s food producing pigs and birds. Rabbits are not considered livestock by the USDA, so even though they can be raised for meat, they are considered Category I animals by APHIS.



Veterinarians selecting **Category II** can perform accredited activities on **all animal species**. Category II status enables participation in other **program certification** activities such as certification as a Qualified Accredited Veterinarian for the Trichinae Certification Program, or other program certifications as appropriate.

Knowledge Review #2

Category I or Category II?

When selecting what type of accreditation to apply for, you need to evaluate the animals in your practice area. Dogs and cats fall under Category I while cattle, horses, and poultry require Category II accreditation. What if you work with rabbits raised for meat production, but not other food-producing animals? What Category would you need to apply for?

- Category I
- Category II

Answers are found in the appendix.

Knowledge Review #3

Category I or Category II?

It is important to think of your scope of practice when applying for accreditation. If your primarily companion animal practice sees the occasional pet bird, what Category would you need to apply for?

- Category I
- Category II

Answers are found in the appendix.

Knowledge Review #4

One of your clients has been a champion dog breeder for years and their child talks them into getting a pot-bellied pig. One day in the clinic, they mention they are going to be traveling to dog shows this summer and will be bringing Wilbur, the pig, with them. Since the animal is traveling across state lines, it too will need a health certificate. As a Category I veterinarian, are you able to sign a health certificate for the pot-bellied pig?

- Yes
- No

Answers are found in the appendix.

Benefits for the Accredited Veterinarian

The NVAP gives veterinarians the ability to enhance their knowledge and receive current information on important animal health issues.

Key benefits of accreditation include:

- Enhanced professional knowledge base;
- Up-to-date information on animal health, food safety, and regulatory issues;
- Ability to choose level of accreditation program participation and tailor accredited activity to practice type;
- Ability to receive supplemental training;



- Continued acceptance of official work performed by accredited veterinarians in international markets; and
- Increased marketability of services to clients through areas of expertise recognized by USDA.

Code of Federal Regulations

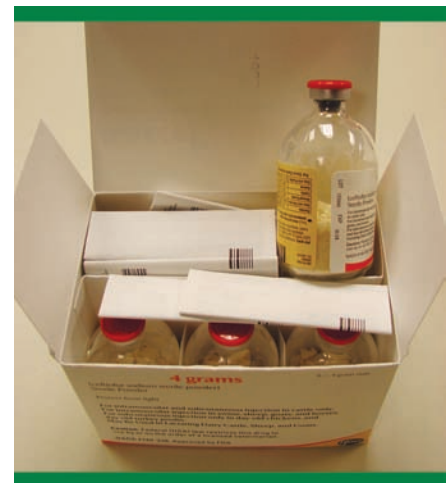
The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) is the comprehensive “rule book” that contains all of the current federal regulations. Information pertaining to veterinary accreditation are listed in Title 9—Animals and Animal Products, Chapter I—USDA-APHIS, Parts 160, 161, and 162. It is imperative that all accredited veterinarians review and familiarize themselves with the information in this Chapter, especially **Part 161**.

http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?sid=2feb34554aeb8d5fdec01c2d268760e3&c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfr/browse/Title09/9cfrv1_02.tpl Please note that the CFR is updated annually.

Some Duties and Responsibilities for All Accredited Veterinarians

The following are some duties and responsibilities for all **accredited** veterinarians:

- Must perform duties **only** in a **State** in which they are authorized to perform accredited work;
- Must perform duties in accordance with Federal and State regulations;
- Must accurately and fully complete official documents, clearly identifying animals, dates, and results;
- Are responsible for the security and proper use of all official documents; tags, bands, or other identification devices; and approved digital signature capabilities and should take reasonable care to prevent their misuse;
- Cannot issue documents unless they have personally inspected the animals related to the documents within **10 days prior to issuance**;
- Should immediately contact the VS Area Office if they are at any time in doubt regarding how to correctly perform a procedure or what their actions should be in a given situation;
- Must keep current on regulations governing the movement of animals and procedures applicable to disease-control-and-eradication programs, including emergency programs;
- Must take measures to prevent the spread of communicable diseases;
- Must identify or be physically present to supervise the identification of reactor animals (brucellosis, tuberculosis);
- Must report all diagnosed or suspected cases of foreign animal diseases and communicable animal diseases for which APHIS has a control or eradication program;
- Cannot use or dispense any pharmaceutical, chemical, vaccine or serum, or other biological product which contradicts Federal or State statutes;
- May issue an origin health certificate for export under certain circumstances and with AVIC approval; and
- Under certain unique circumstances, can issue a document on animals inspected by another accredited veterinarian.



For a complete listing of duties and responsibilities of all accredited veterinarians, refer to 9 CFR § 161.4 Standards for accredited veterinarian duties.

Category I Tasks

The accreditation regulations can be found in 9 CFR, Chapter 1, subchapter J. The tasks that all Category I veterinarians must be able to perform include:

- i. Perform physical examination of individual Category I animals to determine whether they are free from any clinical signs suggestive of communicable disease;
- ii. Recognize the common breeds of Category I animals and accurately record breed information on official documents.
- iii. Apply common animal identification for Category I animals.
- iv. Properly complete certificates for domestic and international movement of Category I animals.
- v. Perform necropsies on Category I animals.
- vi. Recognize and report clinical signs and lesions of exotic animal diseases that occur in Category I animals.
- vii. Vaccinate Category I animals and accurately complete the vaccination certificates.
- viii. Properly collect and ship specimen samples to the appropriate laboratory for testing with complete and accurate paperwork.
- ix. Develop appropriate biosecurity protocols, as well as cleaning and disinfection protocols, to control communicable disease spread in Category I animals.



Category II Tasks

In addition to all those tasks included in Category I, Category II veterinarians must also be able to:

- i. Perform physical examination of individual animals and visually inspect herds or flocks to determine whether the animals are free from any clinical signs suggestive of communicable disease.
- ii. Recognize the common breeds of Category I and Category II animals, including the types of poultry as defined by the National Poultry Improvement Plan and the common breeds of livestock, and be able to accurately record breed information on official documents.
- iii. Recognize all USDA animal identification systems.
- iv. Estimate the age of livestock using a dental formula.
- v. Apply USDA-recognized identification (e.g., eartag, microchip, tattoo) for the USDA animal identification system.
- vi. Certify the health status of an avian flock regarding diseases of domestic or international regulatory concern, and evaluate records pertaining to poultry flock testing and participation in Federal and State poultry health programs and classifications.
- vii. Properly complete certificates for domestic and international movement of animals.
- viii. Apply and remove official seals.



- ix. Perform necropsies on animals.
- x. Recognize and report clinical signs and lesions of exotic animal diseases.
- xi. Develop a herd or flock health plan* consistent with requirements of this chapter.
 - * A written herd or flock health management plan, which may include an agreement signed by the owner of a herd or flock, the accredited veterinarian, and a State or APHIS representative, in which each participant agrees to undertake actions specified in the agreement to maintain the health of the animals and detect signs of communicable disease.
- xii. Vaccinate for USDA program diseases and accurately complete the vaccination certificate.
- xiii. Properly collect and ship sample specimens to an appropriate laboratory for testing with complete and accurate paperwork.
- xiv. Properly perform testing for tuberculosis (e.g., caudal fold test).
- xv. Develop appropriate biosecurity protocols, as well as cleaning and disinfection protocols, to control communicable disease spread.
- xvi. Explain basic principles for control of diseases for which APHIS or APHIS-State cooperative programs presently exist.



Knowledge Review #5

You are currently a Category I accredited veterinarian but have recently been asked to perform Coggins tests on your neighbors' horses for equine infectious anemia. That is a task only Category II accredited veterinarians may perform, so you need to change Accreditation Categories. How do you go about that?

- A.** Call your VS Area Office and ask them to change you from Category I to Category II.
- B.** Log on to the USDA-APHIS-VS Veterinary Accreditation Web site and change your categorization.
- C.** Complete all of the supplemental training modules (six units) associated with renewal of Category II accreditation, and apply to become a Category II veterinarian through your VS Area Office.
- D.** Call your State Animal Health Official (SAHO) and ask that he or she start the paperwork process for your change in categories.

Answers are found in the appendix.

Summary

Accredited veterinarians are essential to assuring the continued health and well-being of our Nation's animals. The enhancement of the veterinary accreditation program in 2010 was designed to increase the effectiveness, credibility, and global recognition of the quality of the NVAP. These changes will give today's veterinarians the needed knowledge to deal with animal health, disease prevention, and preparedness issues of the future. Opportunities exist in both categories of accreditation to protect the health of America's animal population.

Supplemental Training

The content in this module has been approved expressly to serve as one unit of supplemental training for participants in USDA's National Veterinary Accreditation Program. Please ensure you complete, sign, and retain the certificate that was issued with this document stating that you have read the contents of this module. This certificate will be your only proof of having completed this module, and will need to be provided to the appropriate official should APHIS audit your accreditation supplemental training records in the future. Contact your VS Area Office for more details on accreditation renewal.

Acknowledgments

This module was made possible, in part, by a Cooperative Agreement from the USDA-APHIS for the National Veterinary Accreditation Program. It was prepared by the Center for Food Security and Public Health, College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University. Authors include:

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The content of this module has been reviewed and approved by USDA-APHIS Legislative and Public Affairs.

Photo and Illustration Credits

Page 1	<p>(Top) This graphic shows a USDA approval stamp for endorsed U.S. origin health certificates. <i>Graphic illustration by USDA and recreated by: Clint May, Iowa State University</i></p> <p>(Center) This photo shows an accredited veterinarian collecting blood from the tail vein of a cow to perform the gamma interferon test because the caudal fold test for bovine tuberculosis resulted in a suspect reactor. <i>Photo source: Danelle Bickett-Weddle, Iowa State University</i></p> <p>(Bottom) This photo shows blood being drawn from a pig. <i>Photo source: Alex Ramirez, Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine, Iowa State University</i></p>
Page 3	<p>(Top) This graphic emphasizes the overriding goal of the NVAP - to protect and improve animal health. <i>Graphic illustration by: Clint May, Iowa State University</i></p> <p>(Bottom) This photo shows the NVAP Reference Guide, which can be downloaded from the NVAP website and printed out or obtained on a CD-Rom. <i>Photo source: Travis Engelhaupt, Iowa State University</i></p>
Page 4	<p>(Top) This image shows a screen capture of an EEDA web-based lesson. <i>Graphic illustration by: Andrew Kingsbury, Iowa State University</i></p> <p>(Bottom) This graphic shows arrows that depict the various stages of USDA control programs. <i>Graphic illustration by: Clint May, Iowa State University</i></p>
Page 5	<p>(Top) This photo depicts an APHIS Area Veterinarian-in-Charge teaching core orientation. <i>Photo source: Danelle Bickett-Weddle, Iowa State University</i></p> <p>(Center) This graphic shows the renewal of accreditation for the two different Categories of Accreditation. <i>Graphic illustration by: Clint May, Iowa State University</i></p> <p>(Bottom) This illustration depicts the various species that are considered Category I animals (dogs, cats, rodents, rabbits, reptiles), and those that are not (pigs, birds). <i>Graphic illustration by: Clint May and Dani Ausen, Iowa State University</i></p>
Page 6	<p>This photo shows a veterinarian taking the online training. <i>Photo source: Dani Ausen, Iowa State University</i></p>
Page 7	<p>(Top) This graphic depicts that documents can only be issued up to 10 days after animals have been personally inspected. <i>Graphic illustration by: Clint May, Iowa State University</i></p> <p>(Bottom) This photo depicts a pharmaceutical that can be used or dispensed because it meets Federal or State statutes. <i>Photo source: Danelle Bickett-Weddle, Iowa State University</i></p>
Page 8	<p>(Top) The top photo shows a veterinarian examining a cat. The bottom photo shows a dog ear tattoo, which is a form of animal identification in Category I animals. <i>Photo source: Danelle Bickett-Weddle, Iowa State University (both)</i></p> <p>(Bottom) This photo shows a livestock trailer with an official seal and accompanying paperwork. <i>Photo source: Danelle Bickett-Weddle, Iowa State University</i></p>
Page 9	<p>This photo depicts serum samples and accurately completed paperwork submitted to a lab for testing. <i>Photo source: Danelle Bickett-Weddle, Iowa State University</i></p>

Knowledge Review Answers

Knowledge Review #1

As a veterinarian, once you are accredited to perform regulatory duties on behalf of the Federal Government in one State, you are able to perform them in every State. True or False?

- True
- False

The correct answer is FALSE.

While veterinary accreditation is managed at the national level, the USDA Veterinary Services Area Veterinarian-in-Charge of each State is in charge of authorizing veterinarians to perform accredited duties. Therefore, before you can sign health certificates or conduct diagnostic tests for regulatory diseases for animals in another State, you must first apply for authorization at the USDA Veterinary Services Area Office which is responsible for that State.

Knowledge Review #2

Category I or Category II?

When selecting what type of accreditation to apply for, you need to evaluate the animals in your practice area. Dogs and cats fall under Category I while cattle, horses, and poultry require Category II accreditation. What if you work with rabbits raised for meat production, but not other food-producing animals? What Category would you need to apply for?

- Category I
- Category II

Category I is correct. Since rabbits are not considered livestock by the USDA, category I veterinarians are able to write health certificates for them.

Category II is incorrect because the USDA does not consider rabbits livestock, even though some are raised for their meat. In order to be able to write health certificates for them, you would only need to obtain category I accreditation status.

Knowledge Review #3

Category I or Category II?

It is important to think of your scope of practice when applying for accreditation. If your primarily companion animal practice sees the occasional pet bird, what Category would you need to apply for?

- Category I
- Category II

Category I is incorrect because pet birds can carry diseases that could spread to poultry raised for food production. In this case, veterinarians signing health certificates for pet birds would need to obtain Category II accreditation status and complete the additional supplemental training (6 hours instead of 3).

Category II is correct. Pet birds can carry diseases that could spread to poultry raised for food production. In order to be able to write health certificates for pet birds, you would need to obtain Category II accreditation status.

Knowledge Review #4

One of your clients has been a champion dog breeder for years and their child talks them into getting a pot-bellied pig. One day in the clinic, they mention they are going to be traveling to dog shows this summer and will be bringing Wilbur, the pig, with them. Since the animal is traveling across state lines, it too will need a health certificate. As a Category I veterinarian, are you able to sign a health certificate for the pot-bellied pig?

- Yes
- No

The correct answer is NO. As a Category I veterinarian, you are only able to sign health certificates for Category I animals. Since the pot-bellied pig is considered by APHIS to pose a significant threat to the health of the nation's food-producing swine population, you must first obtain Category II status before signing Wilbur's health certificate.

Knowledge Review #5

You are currently a Category I accredited veterinarian but have recently been asked to perform Coggins tests on your neighbors' horses for equine infectious anemia. That is a task only Category II accredited veterinarians may perform, so you need to change Accreditation Categories. How do you go about that?

- A.** Call your VS Area Office and ask them to change you from Category I to Category II.
- B.** Log on to the USDA-APHIS-VS Veterinary Accreditation Web site and change your categorization.
- C.** Complete all of the supplemental training modules (six units) associated with renewal of Category II accreditation, and apply to become a Category II veterinarian through your VS Area Office.
- D.** Call your State Animal Health Official (SAHO) and ask that he or she start the paperwork process for your change in categories.

Answer A is partially correct. In order to change from Category I to Category II, you must first successfully complete a total of 6 units of APHIS-approved supplemental training, then contact your VS Area Office and apply to change categorization.

Answer B is incorrect. You can check your current status and obtain the necessary additional training from the USDA-APHIS-VS National Veterinary Accreditation Program Web site, but you cannot change your accreditation category.

Answer C is correct! In order to change from Category I to Category II, you must first complete a total of 6 units of APHIS-approved supplemental training. Upon successful completion of the additional training, you can apply for new categorization through your VS Area Office. This requirement for supplemental training to change accreditation categories will not become effective until 2012, at which time a substantial amount of supplemental training will be available.

Answer D is incorrect. The SAHO is not involved in the process of changing categories.